MARVEL

3

LGY#168

DONNY CATES • RYAN STEGMAN • JP MAYER • FRANK MARTIN

VENOM

YEARS AGO, PETER PARKER (A.K.A. THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN) ACCIDENTALLY BONDED WITH AN AGGRESSIVE ORGANISM CALLED A SYMBIOTE.

AFTER DISCOVERING IT INTENDED TO MAKE THEIR UNION PERMANENT, HE REJECTED THE CREATURE, WHICH SOON FOUND A NEW HOST IN DISGRACED REPORTER **EDDIE BROCK**.

THEIR UNION GRANTED EDDIE POWERS SIMILAR TO THOSE OF SPIDER-MAN, AS WELL AS A NUMBER OF OTHER UNIQUE ABILITIES. TOGETHER, THEY NOW FIGHT CRIME AS THE WICKED WEB-SLINGER CALLED...

VENOM

YEARS AGO, IN THE THROES OF THE VIETNAM WAR, S.H.I.E.L.D. DISCOVERED AN ANCIENT SYMBIOTE, DORMANT FOR A MILLENNIUM, AND HARVESTED SAMPLES FROM IT. USING WOUNDED SOLDIERS, INCLUDING A MAN NAMED ***REX STRICKLAND***, AS LIVING TEST SUBJECTS, THE AGENCY HOPED TO BRING ABOUT A SWIFT CONCLUSION TO THE CONFLICT.

REX MADE IT OUT OF VIETNAM, BUT THE REST OF HIS PLATOON DIDN'T. HE'S BEEN TRYING TO FREE THEM FROM S.H.I.E.L.D. EVER SINCE, AND NOW HE'S ASKED VENOM FOR HELP.

BUT IN THE MIDST OF THEIR RESCUE OPERATION, VENOM DISCOVERED THAT THERE WAS NO ONE LEFT TO SAVE. REX'S SQUADMATES WERE CONSUMED BY THEIR SYMBIOTES YEARS AGO, LEAVING A PLATOON OF SYMBIOTIC SOLDIERS IN THEIR PLACE.

FREED BY VENOM, THEY RELEASED THE ANCIENT SYMBIOTE–NOW AWAKE AND REVEALED TO BE A MASSIVE KLYNTAR ***DRAGON*** THAT EDDIE'S SYMBIOTE REVERES.

THE CREATURE CONSUMED ITS LIBERATORS AND BURST OUT OF THE STREETS OF NEW YORK, WREAKING HAVOC ON MIDTOWN, DISRUPTING EDDIE'S CONNECTION WITH HIS SYMBIOTE AND DRAWING THE ATTENTION OF SOME OF THE CITY'S MASKED VIGILANTES...

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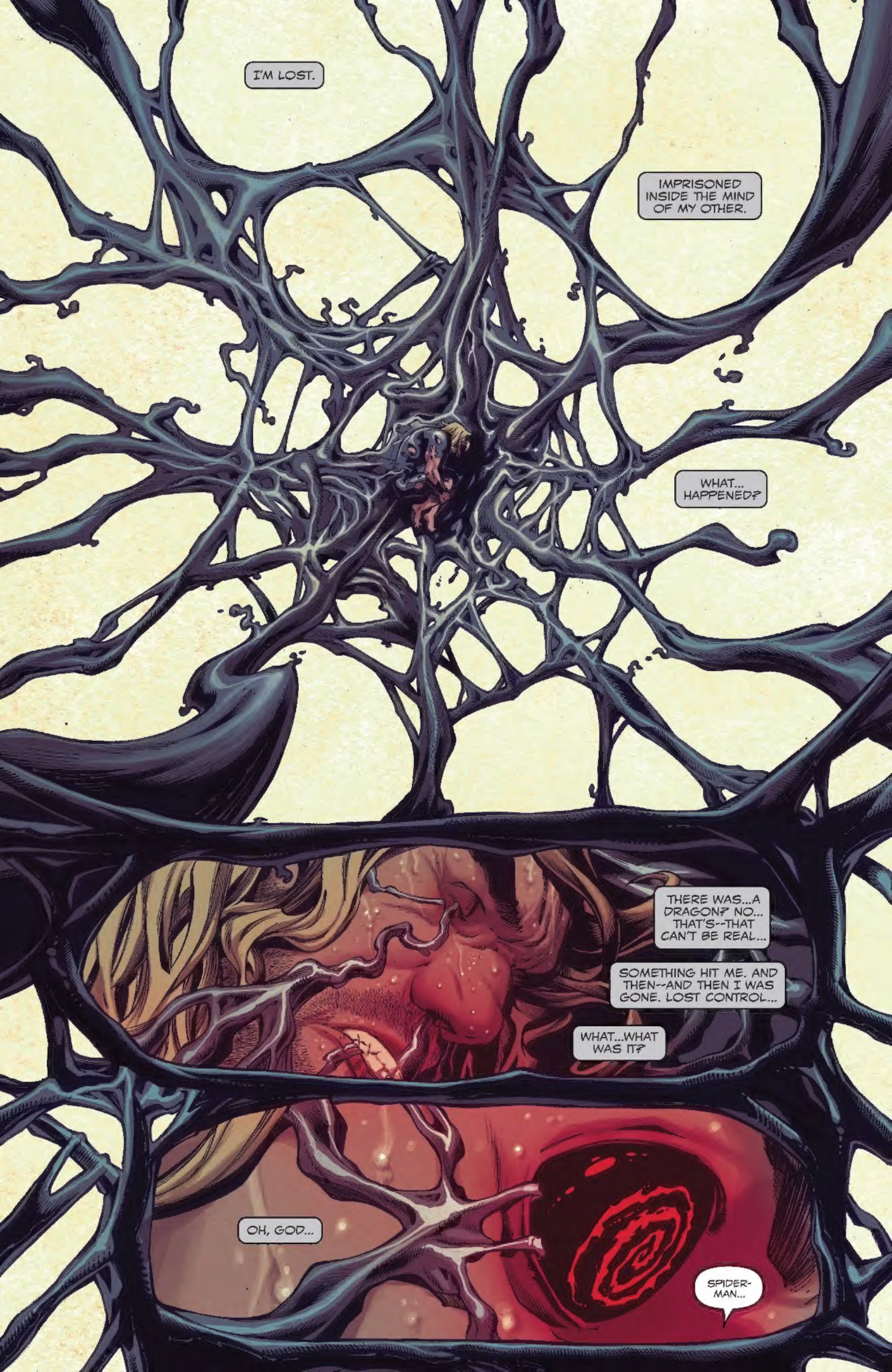
I'M LOST.
IMPRISONED INSIDE THE MIND OF MY OTHER.
WHAT... HAPPENED?
THERE WAS...A DRAGON? NO... THAT'S--THAT CAN'T BE REAL...
SOMETHING HIT ME. AND THEN--AND THEN I WAS GONE. LOST CONTROL...
WHAT...WHAT WAS IT?
OH, GOD...
SPIDER-MAN...

...WE'RE KILLING SPIDER-MAN.

DEV'S DIGEST

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Send letters our way at SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM and mark 'em OKAY TO PRINT!

Hello in here, out there, around the world and aboard all the ships at sea! Editor Devin Lewis reporting to you live and in print from Marvel Comics HQ here in the heart of New York!

Welcome to the inaugural installment of DEV'S DIGEST, a chance for us here at the House of Ideas to give you readers out there in Mighty Marveldom a sneak peek at some of the coolest stuff we've got in the works for the coming months and give you the inside scoop on where your favorite Marvel mags and stories are headed.

ITEM: DAREDEVIL #605 – This is it! The epic conclusion to guest artist Mike Henderson's arc illustrating The Man Without Fear's adventures! Written by Charles Soule, it's an all-out assault on Hell's Kitchen from The Beast and his Hand Ninja Clan, with only Daredevil and a handful of other heroes to stand in their way! On sale 7/11!

ITEM: It's all-out mayhem as Deadpool has to singlehandedly outwit & outgun the entire Assassins' Guild in this epic adventure from Cullen Bunn & Mark Bagley! The first two issues are already on stands, and #3 drops on 7/11! But be warned, readers! This one ain't for the kiddos!

ITEM: CLOAK AND DAGGER - At last! We can finally talk about CLOAK AND DAGGER, a digital-first tale from Dennis Hopeless and David Messina! When a mysterious foe from Cloak and Dagger's past returns, will Tandy and Tyrone be able to put their differences behind them to stop it? And perhaps even rekindle their romance? Find out RIGHT NOW! Issues #1 AND #2 are available on the Marvel Comics app!

ITEM: And be sure to grab BEN REILLY: THE SCARLET SPIDER #21 from Peter David and Will Sliney! Every issue of the series so far has been leading to this – an all-out, no holds barred showdown with the Diogenes Initiative... with young Abigail Mercury's life hanging in the balance! You won't want to miss a single, pulse-pounding page!

Over and out!
Devin.

@edevinlewis

K-KILLL...
...MEEEE.
FINE.
GRAB
BUT REMEMBER...

SMASH
...YOU ASKED FOR THIS!
AGGHH!
I...GOD, I'M SORRY...I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED.
THANKS, KID. WE HAVEN'T MET, MY NAME IS--
I KNOW WHO YOU ARE!
YOU'RE A MONSTER!

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STOP THIS!
LISTEN TO US!
TWIP
GET OFF OF ME!
YOU HURT MY MOTHER!
...
...WE WHAT?
YOU...SOMETHING LIKE YOU...I DON'T KNOW...
PUT MY DAD IN THE HOSPITAL... TOOK...TOOK MY MOM AND--
KID, LOOK AT US.
MY NAME IS EDDIE BROCK.
I DON'T KNOW YOU.
TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE... I DID NOT HURT YOUR MOTHER. BUT IF WE--IF I HURT YOU...OR--OR IF I TOOK SOMEONE FROM YOU...WE CAN SETTLE THAT UP LATER.
YOU HAVE MY WORD ON THAT.

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BUT RIGHT NOW, YOU AND I ARE THE ONLY THINGS STANDING BETWEEN THAT THING AND THE PEOPLE OF THIS CITY.
NOW, YOU SEEM LIKE YOU NEED TO HURT A MONSTER...
...AND WE CAN'T FACE THAT THING ALONE.
SO WHAT DO YOU SAY WE GO KILL THAT THING TOGETHER?
FINE. BUT WHEN THIS IS DONE...
YEAH, YEAH. YOU AIN'T OUR FIRST SPIDER-MAN, KID...
YOU GOT ANY MORE OF THAT THING YOU HIT ME WITH?
YEAH. IT'S CALLED A...
UGH...
IT'S CALLED A VENOM BLAST.
GOOD NAME.
YEAH, SHUT UP. I CAN RELEASE ALL OF IT AT ONCE, TOO.
LEAVES ME PRETTY WASTED, BUT IT PACKS A PRETTY BIG PUNCH.
YEAH?

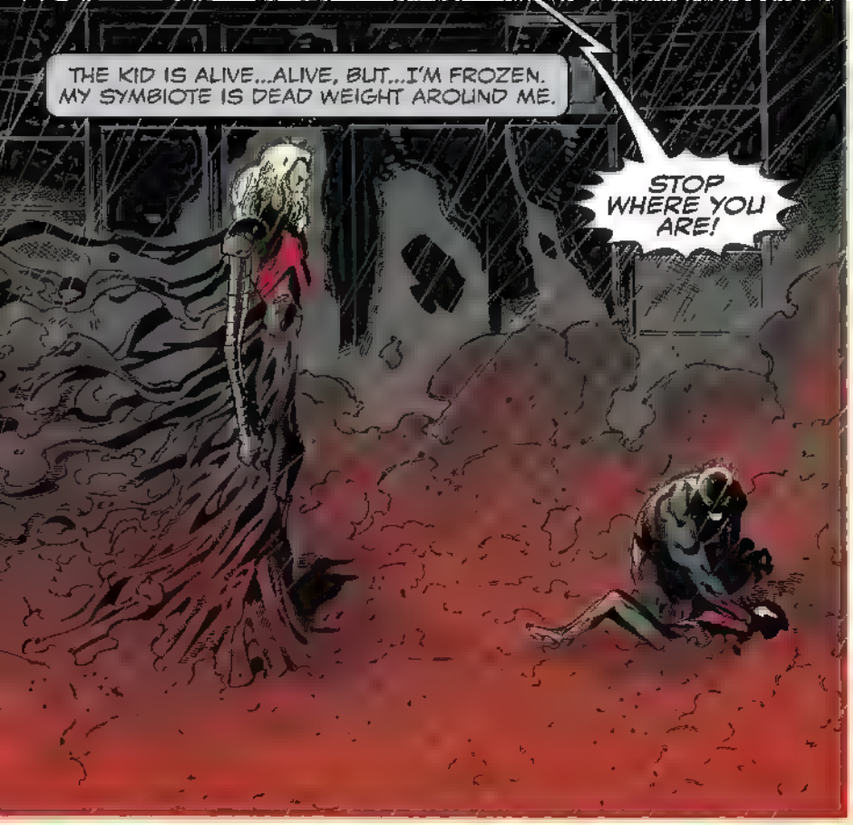
HOW BIG?
GOD... WHAT IS THAT THING?
SOME KINDA ANCIENT SYMBIOTE. LIKE US... ONLY...
WORSE. BIGGER. MEANER. SCARIER. MAYBE A LITTLE BIT UGLIER, BUT NOT BY--
RIGHT. LET'S DO THIS.
WHERE IS EVERYONE? WHY AREN'T THE AVENGERS OR THE X-MEN OUT HERE?
APPARENTLY CELESTIALS ARE FALLING OUT OF THE SKY EVERYWHERE?
IF YOU DON'T KNOW, JUST SAY YOU DON'T KNOW.
AH! THAT HELICOPTER IS FIRING MISSILES INTO THAT THING! I THOUGHT FIRE AND SOUND WERE SUPPOSED TO HURT SYMBIOTES!
YEAH, SO DID WE. WE'LL NEED TO GET YOU CLOSE ENOUGH TO...VENOM BLAST IT.
UGH, RIGHT. HOW DO YOU PROPOSE WE DO THAT WITHOUT ME GETTING EATEN?

EATEN. HUH. GOOD IDEA.
HEY! MY WEB! WHAT ARE YOU--
WHAAAA!
GOOD LUCK! WE'RE ALL COUNTIN' ON YOU!
AAAAAGGGGHH!
I HATE THIS A LOT!
CHOMP
GULP
ALL RIGHT, KID! NOW OR--

I WILL REMEMBER THE SOUND THE DRAGON MAKES FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.
A THOUSAND VOICES LIKE JET ENGINES WAILING AND SCREAMING IN HORROR.
REEEEYYYTH!!
ZAKZAM

AND THEN... SOMETHING ELSE...
AGHH!
...THE DRAGON PULLS ITSELF APART... UNRAVELS...
...INSIDE...AN ENDLESS CACOPHONY...
...NO...NOT--NOT OUT LOUD...
...INSIDE OF MY HEAD. MY MIND!
IT'S...
RAGHHH!
...IT'S ROARING...
SCREAMING AND...AND...
OH, OH, GOD...

...IT'S SINGING.
DOES THIS BELONG TO YOU, CHILD?
THUD


THE KID IS ALIVE...ALIVE, BUT...I'M FROZEN. MY SYMBIOTE IS DEAD WEIGHT AROUND ME.
STOP WHERE YOU ARE!

WHATEVER THIS THING IS...MY OTHER IS REACTING OUT OF PURE INSTINCT.
SHOWING ITS BELLY BEFORE THE ALPHA.
GET ON THE GROUND AND PLACE YOUR HANDS BEHIND YOUR BACK OR WE WILL OPEN FIRE!

THERE'S NO HURRY IN HIS MOVEMENTS.
NO FEAR, OR ANGER.

JUST STRENGTH.

KRUNCH
POWER.

HOW SMALL
HEY! PUT IT DOWN! THERE ARE...THERE ARE PEOPLE IN THERE!
I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE OR WHAT YOU WANT, BUT--
FRAGILE
KA BOOOMM
AND THEN...IT HAPPENS...

...I BEGIN TO FADE AWAY.
MY OTHER TAKES CONTROL.
THIS TIME I LET IT.
RAGHHH!
OH, LOOK AT YOU BEAUTIFUL
RAGHHH!

OH, MY CHILD. YOU CANNOT TOUCH ME
I PILOT THIS VESSEL
BUT I AM FAR, FAR AWAY FROM HERE
NOW
STOP IT
AGH!

IT IS LOUD HERE
LET US BE ALONE
W-WHAT ARE YOU?!
MY CHILD... WHAT HAS BEEN DONE TO YOU? WHY ARE YOU IN THIS PLACE?
ANSWER ME! WHAT DO YOU WANT?!
YOUR HOST IS SCREAMING CHILD
COME TO ME
NO. WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

THERE NOW
OH, MY CHILD
YOUR HOST SHUTS YOU OUT. SILENCES YOU. YOU ARE ALL BROKEN INSIDE.
SHALL I FIX YOU?
P-PLEASE... PLEASE DON'T TAKE IT AWAY FROM ME...
IT'S ALL I HAVE.
I CAN'T BE ALONE.
AH. I SEE. YOU HAVE BEEN HERE TOO LONG.
YOU ARE INFECTED, LITTLE ONE.
INFECTED BY... HUMANITY.

LET ME BURN THAT OUT OF YOU.
SKREEE!
HEY! STOP IT! YOU'RE HURTING--
QUIET!
YOU WANT TO KNOW WHO I AM, HOST?
LET ME SHOW YOU.
I AM KNULL.
LORD OF THE ABYSS.

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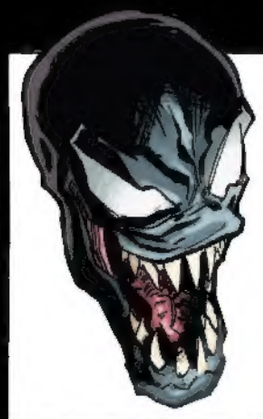

Eddie's Clubhouse

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Hello, Venomaniacs! Editor Devin Lewis reporting to you live and in print from Marvel HQ in the heart of New York!

As I write this, it's the very beginning of summer in New York, and the city--and the whole comics biz--is buzzing with Venom fever!

Sure, there's that movie coming out at the end of the year, but what's really been driving people wild has been VENOM #1--the issue that kicked off the story you've just read in this very comics mag! The ol' mailbag has been filled to bursting these past few weeks by you fans out there in Mighty Marveldom singing the praises of the whole VENOM family--and I think it's safe for me to speak for Donny, Ryan, JP, Frank and Clayton when I say THANK YOU!

Venom fans, and I say this as one of ya myself, are a special breed, and nothing's proven that quite like the character's 30th Anniversary celebration! Not only did you readers make VENOM one of the biggest, blockbusteriest books of the summer, you loonies bought so much of it that it's gone to a second printing! So if you're a completist or a collector, be sure to keep your eyes peeled for the Second Printing Variant at your local comic book shop--it's a beaut!

Hey, speaking of variants, we've got a terrific one on this issue, too, by none other than Jorge Molina! It's one of the coolest images of Venom in recent memory, and it's a must-have if you're a fan of the sinister symbiote!

Enough plugging! Let's get to your letters!

Dear Eddie's Clubhouse,

I've got a confession to make. I've never been a huge Venom fan. I picked up VENOM #1/LGCY #166 on a whim and It. Was. Venomenal!

Thanks Cates, Stegman, Mayer, Martin and the whole team. You're each clearly giving your all.

This series is asking great questions to build the Venom mythos, and I'm excited to join you guys on the journey.

But first I want to do my homework. Do you guys have any recommendations for further reading?

Your Other,
Evan S.

BOY, you have come to the right place, Evan! Not only am I a huge VENOM fan, but so are writer Donny Cates and artist Ryan Stegman! So I've reached out to them, and the whole team, to get their input on their favorite Venom stories! For me, it'd have to be LETHAL PROTECTOR, Venom's first-ever miniseries as a headliner. The one that started it all! As for the others, Donny, Ryan, JP, and Frank's favorites will come in next issue's letter column, so keep reading!

Dear Team VENOM,

I was going to write this long-winded letter that broke down every little reason to why I enjoyed the new VENOM #1, but there are just too many details to break down.

So, let me just say this to Donny Cates, Ryan Stegman, JP Mayer and Frank Martin: You have put together the single best issue of any VENOM comic that I've ever read.

Outside of LETHAL PROTECTOR when I was a kid and the Tsunami series from the early 2000s, I've never cared much for Eddie and his symbiote.

This story is incredible, I love the new mythos that you're introducing, and I cannot wait for the next issue.

Keep up the amazing work!

Ken L.
Thunder Bay, ON, Canada

Hey, Ken, and thanks for your letter! It's great to hear that we're doing right by you, a Venom reader who clearly knows his stuff! I loved that Tsunami series, too! Matter of fact, we just had none other than comics legend SAM KEITH join us for a very special variant cover for VENOM #2! If you liked his work on that 2003 series, you'll love what he cooked up for that particular piece--ask your shop about it!

Dear Eddie's Clubhouse,

Wow! Great job, Donny & Ryan! May be the darkest Venom/Eddie Brock that I've seen and read. I've been a Venom fan for such a long time. It makes me sad that I never thought the symbiote had a name other than Venom or symbiote. I also always thought Spider-Man was the first host as well, never really thought there could've been someone before him. MIND BLOWN!

Rex is a very interesting character. Not sure that I can really trust him. I just have a feeling that I know how this will end with Rex. You just know he's got ulterior motives.

So the symbiote soldiers are dead, and under the control of this symbiote "god"? I'm anxious to learn more about this ancient symbiote. I've just got this sneaky feeling Rex has more to do with this than he's letting on.

Really looking forward to the next issue. I'll be very impatiently waiting till then.

Sincerely, one of Venom's biggest fans,

H. Davis-Hatfield

Thanks for your letter, H.! Be sure to keep sending in your theories about Rex! I've got a sneaking suspicion that we might be able to surprise you yet!

Hey, Venom Team!

Zack here again, to say that the 30th anniversary issue was AMAZING. My jaw was more open than Venom's while I was reading it! Eddie sure seems to be in a symBIOTE load of trouble! (Haha, get it?)

Seriously though, you guys are doing such a fantastic job and I'm just giddy to see what else you guys have planned! Thank you for all of your hard work.

Sincerely,
Zack L.

Yeesh--you're lucky I like terrible puns, Zack. Otherwise, this letter might not have ever seen the light of day! Thanks for reading and for writing! Can't wait to hear what you think of VENOM #3!

That's just about all the space I've got for this one, Venomaniacs! We'll see you back here IN ONE MONTH as we start to untangle the mysteries of KNULL!

Who is the God of the Abyss? What is its connection to Venom? And will Eddie and the symbiote be able to keep themselves together long enough to find out?

Find out in 30!

Over and out!
Devin

@edevinlewis

VENOM

#4 ON SALE 7.25.18!

HEY, VENOMANIACS! THE FIRST TWO ISSUES ARE ON THE SHELVES NOW! GO GRAB #1 AND #2 AND LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK OF THE WHOLE STORY SO FAR BY WRITING TO US AT SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM! BE SURE TO MARK YOUR LETTERS "OKAY TO PRINT"!

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